

**ELEMENTARY LESSONS
IN BOTANICAL
GEOGRAPHY**

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Elementary Lessons in Botanical Geography by J. G. Baker

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J. G. BAKER

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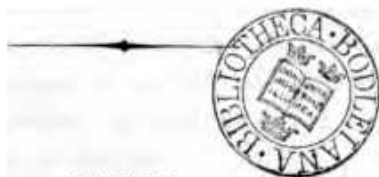
IN

BOTANICAL GEOGRAPHY.

BY

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ASSISTANT CURATOR OF THE HERBARIUM OF THE ROYAL GARDENS, KEW,
AND LECTURER ON BOTANY TO THE LONDON HOSPITAL.



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5, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

—
1875.

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PREFACE.

THESE Lessons are reprinted from the 'Gardener's Chronicle,' with slight alteration. They were drawn up because there is not already in existence, in any language, any elementary hand-book of Geographical Botany suitable for educational purposes; and the writer felt that it was extremely desirable that gardeners and other learners in biology should be encouraged, as much as possible, to acquire comprehensive and correct ideas of the laws and leading facts of plant-distribution. In the class which he had particularly in view it was intended that each Chapter should form the foundation of a lesson of an hour's duration; and the detail entered into with regard to each subject, unless it be that of the last Chapter, has been compressed within the limits necessary on this plan.

J. G. BAKER.

Richmond,

August, 1875.

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ELEMENTARY LESSONS
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Introductory Propositions.

THE distribution of plants over the world at the present time depends principally upon three causes, which are :—

I. Climate, or the way in which heat and moisture are at present spread over the globe.

II. The influence of man in spreading some kinds, and voluntarily or involuntarily restricting the distribution of others.

III. Their past history, or the times and places when and where they have been created or differentiated, and the way in which sea and land, heat and moisture, have been distributed in former times.

First, then, we have climate to consider under the two heads of Heat and Moisture. The distribution of heat over the world depends upon three causes, viz. :—

1. The position which a place occupies with regard to the sun whilst the earth makes its annual revolution.

2. The distribution of the masses of sea and land in its neighbourhood.

3. Its height above sea-level.